

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5829

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 17651

STATE PASS DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CPRS
SUBJECT: EXTRADITION - ALFREDO RIOS CAMARENA

REF: STATE 243404

1. LICENCIADO FERNANDO BAEZA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, STRESSED TO EMBOFFS OCTOBER 21 HIGHEST LEVEL GOM CONCERN OVER EXTRADITION RIOS CAMARENA. HE EXPLAINED PROSECUTION OF RIOS IN TERMS OF MEXICAN GOVERNMENT PLEDGES TO OWN PEOPLE TO CLEAN UP FRAUD AND CORRUPTION, EMPHASIZED CONTINUING EFFORT OF GOM TO EDUCATE POPULATION ABOUT GRAVITY OF RIOS CAMARENA'S OFFENSES, AND STRESSED THAT, IF EXTRADITION REQUEST NOW PENDING WERE TO BE REJECTED BY US, MEXICAN PUBLIC OPINION NOT LIKELY TO COMPREHEND IT WAS A JURIDICAL QUESTION. EMBASSY OFFICERS STATED THEY WOULD INFORM WASHINGTON OF GOM HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST, ASSURED HIM THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH KNEW THE DEGREE OF IMPORTANCE GOM PLACED ON CASE, BUT ALSO NOTED THAT DECISION DEPENDED ON DECISION OF AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY.

2. SPECIFICALLY, BAEZA IS CONCERNED ABOUT STATEMENT IN
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A MOTION OF LATE SEPTEMBER BY RIOS CAMARENA'S ATTORNEY, ROY E. BLACK, TO EFFECT THAT MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAD FROZEN ALL RIOS' BANK ACCOUNTS AND SECURITY HOLDINGS AND PLACED LIENS AGAINST ALL HIS REAL PROPERTY INCLUDING A NUMBER OF PRIVATE DWELLINGS. BLACK ARGUED THIS GOM ACTION SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT SECURITY OF ITSELF TO PREVENT HIS FLIGHT, AND THEREFORE RECOMMENDED ELIM-

INATION OF BAIL. BAEZA STATED THAT GOM HAD NOT FROZEN ACCOUNTS AND PLACED LIENS AGAINST PROPERTY, THAT GOM COULD PRODUCE EVIDENCE IT HAD NOT DONE SO. HE ASKED SPECIFICALLY FOR GUIDANCE FROM US AS TO CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH MEXICAN GOVERNMENT COULD GET ITS PROOFS OF FALSITY OF ALLEGATIONS INTO THE RECORD. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFFS' STATEMENT THAT JUDGE HAD APPARENTLY ALREADY CONSIDERED THIS MOTION AND HAD DECIDED TO REDUCE BAIL TO \$1-1/2 MILLION (STILL A VERY HIGH SUM), BAEZA MADE CLEAR THAT NEVERTHELESS GOM DID NOT WANT FALSE STATEMENTS TO GO UNCHALLENGED, AND HE INDICATED HE BELIEVED RIOS. LAWYERS MIGHT FURTHER REQUEST ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION OF BAIL. BAEZA ALSO INDICATED OTHER STATEMENTS IN CITED DEFENSE DOCUMENT WERE ERRONEOUS, E.G., THAT RIOS HELD A MASTERS DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND HE INDICATED GOM WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND TO THIS AND OTHER CLAIMS IN THE DEFENSE RECORD ALSO. COPY OF DEFENSE PETITION WHICH BAEZA PRODUCED CARRIED NOTE THAT COPY HAD BEEN MAILED TO ASSISTANT US ATTORNEY IN MIAMI, JEROME R. SANFORD, ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1977.

3. IT IS CLEAR THAT GOM IS LEAVING NO STONE UNTURNED IN ITS EFFORT TO BUILD AS STRONG A CASE AS POSSIBLE AGAINST RIOS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE FROM STATE AND JUSTICE RESPONSE THAT WE CAN PROVIDE TO BAEZA ON THE SPECIFIC POINT OF HOW GOM CAN GET INTO THE RECORD ITS CONTENTION
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THAT INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DEFENSE LAWYER WAS
ERRONEOUS. LUCEY

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